



The QUARAE



Volume 20 Issue 11

Editor John Lindvay WB3IFD

November 2019

It Seems to Me

I looked up some hams that haven't been around lately. I talked to Mike Morrison KC3GOC, whose wife had a torn rotor cup in her shoulder and she had surgery. He has been spending all his time taking care of her.

Joe Ponchak KB3CPV stopped by to see John Yochim, KB3KEM, only to find him sleeping.

I also spoke to George Younkin N3SRF. More bad news. George's wife suddenly passed away. He took it pretty hard.

One bright spot is that Craig Hill K3PLV is at home. He is still weak, but improving rapidly. He can get around in a walker at the moment.

I also talked to David Wellman WX3E. I had heard rumors that the Union City Club was getting on DStar. It turns out that I was wrong. They are adding DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) to their repeater. They still have some bugs to work out to get it to work. I commend them for their forward thinking. Some local hams think that communicating through the internet is not real ham radio. But I think why not. It is still communicating and it is really technical. They are really forwarding the hobby big time.

I have been busy running FT8. I got some new countries I didn't have. Kuwait, Bahrain, and Wales. I haven't tried FT4 yet, although Ron Rycek has been operating it. Don't forget! The next meeting is at the Red Cross.

Christmas Party

All hams and their family are invited.

\$16 per person includes gratuity

TICKET DEADLINE 12/6/2019

Location: Senior Citizen, Center Summit Township,
1450 Townhall Rd. W., Erie, PA 16509

When: Saturday, December 14, 2019, Time 4 PM
until 8 PM.

Dinner 5 PM

Menu:

Baked Chicken, Glazed Ham, Meat Balls, Rigatoni.
Parsley Potato's w/Garlic Butter
Green Beans w/Bacon,
Glazed Carrots, House Salad
Coffee, Rolls, Butter, Lemon Aid
Desert: Cake.

For reservations contact Sue Seyboldt at (814) 969-8542.

Once reservations are made you are obligated to pay even if you don't attend.

Mail Check Payment To:

Wattsburg Wireless Association
C/O Allen Platz
8091 New Road
Cranesville, PA 16410

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU SEE AN ENDANGERED ANIMAL
EATING AN ENDANGERED PLANT?

Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?

September General Meeting Minutes

Began at: 7:00 P.M.

Board Members and Officers Present: K1ZIK-Ed ,
KB3ZVH-Richard Quinn, AD4UL-Doug Sweet,
KC3GBD-Bob, N8WXQ-Frank Etzler

Members Present: KA3CPV-Joe Ponchak,
KB3JZL-Gene Brilig, N3LPO-Sue, WB3DOM-
Ron, KC3KBZ-Jim, N3DBC-Chuck, KB3DAF-
Sam, WA1YJZ-Jim ,

Program: presented by N8WXQ – Frank Etzler
“How Antennas Work”

New Hams: None

Silent Keys: None

Visitors: K3NAW-Mike

Treasurer's Report: Checking \$727.43,

Membership Report: None

Facilities Report: Chuck (the gentleman from
across the street) is doing the Grass Cutting at Club
House grounds. Ramp needs to be weather sealed
before winter

Repeater Report: Mobile Com has repaired
repeater, Discussion on new trustee for repeater
system

Public Service: Full Marathon 09-08-2019, Run
for recovery 09-21-2019

Contesting Report: PA QSO Party is October 12-
13-2019. Meet at club house

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Meeting ended at: 08:06 P.M.

If you are cross-eyed and have dyslexia, can you read all
right?

General Meeting Minutes 10/03/2019 Clubhouse

Began At: 7:00 P.M.

Board Members and Officers Present: Ad4ul-Doug,
K1zik-Ed, Kb3zvh-Richard, Kc3gbd-Bob, N8wxq-
Frank

Members Present: Ka3cpv-Joe, Wb3ifd-John,
Wb3dom-Ron, Kb3jzl-Gene, Wb3igk-mike,
Kc3iyd-Wendell, Wa1ygz-Rick

Program: Wouff Hong History

New Hams: None

Silent Keys: None

Visitors: None

Treasurer's Report: \$694.00 in Checking, Debits
\$36.32 Electric, \$50.00 to Chuck for Lawn
Mowing, Received Check from Run for Recovery
for \$50.00

Membership Report: None

Facilities Report: Ramp weather sealed for winter
on 10/05/2019. Thank you for all that helped with
the sealing!

Repeater Report: Working well after repair. Bob-
Kc3gbd elected to be new Trustee of the repeater.

Public Service: Done for the year. Doug-Ad4ul
thanks everyone who helped this summer!

Contesting Report: PA QSO Party 10/12-13/2019
at Club House, World Wide DX Contest 10/26-
27/2019

Old Business: None

New Business: Voted to pay Chuck \$50.00 for
mowing the lawn at Club House

Meeting End At: 8:06 P.M.

Next meeting will be 11/07/2019 At the Red Cross
Building

My QRP CW Journey

(I found this in the NAQCC September newsletter. Ed.)



My neighborhood friends and I got our start in radio communications with CB radio while in middle school in the 1970's. Becoming disenchanted with CB due to its limitations, we started investigating ham radio. One of my friends in the neighborhood had a cousin who was a ham. This cousin helped him to get his novice license and set up his first station. Within a year or so, my dad and I had our licenses. My first callsign, assigned to me in December 1977, was WB3KKT, the callsign I had for about 25 years.

That winter we neighbor kids studied as a group and went to the FCC field office in Buffalo, NY during Easter break to take our General class exams. We came back with Advanced class licenses. We had all passed the 20wpm code test but

each failed the Extra exam by 2 or 3 questions, which we believe was due to studying from the same outdated material. The FCC didn't give credit for passing the 20 wpm code test back then, but earning the Advanced class made the trip worthwhile. My first rig was a TS-520S, and I made many contacts with it. In the summer of '78 I picked up an HW-8 at a hamfest.

The receiver worked ok, but it wouldn't transmit. I paired it up with a Heathkit DX-60 CW/AM transmitter that my dad got from a friend at work. This setup wasn't really QRP, but I had a really good time making contacts with it, even though I had only a handful of crystals for the transmitter, and had to throw a manual knife switch for TX-RX. An older local ham offered to help me diagnose the issue with the HW-8. After we still couldn't get it to transmit, he gave me a little MFJ 40-meter QRP transmitter and matching VFO. Now I was cooking on QRP. I was pleasantly surprised that it wasn't any harder to make CW contacts using the QRP transmitter than it was using the DX-60 @ 50 watts. I think that's when I was hooked on QRP. I upgraded to a Drake 2c receiver, and later picked up an Argonaut 509, which has the hottest receiver I think I've ever heard. In about 1988 I built an HW-9 with the WARC bands add-on. There was a period in the 90's and early 00's when ham radio was placed on the back burner, and the 520, the Drake and DX-60 moved on. I traded the HW-8 with my childhood friend, Dave, WB3CEG for a 2m HT in the mid-80's. He stored it in a closet for 3+ decades and gave it back to me about a year ago. I spent a couple of nights trying to find the issue with the transmitter again. I touched up some really ugly solder joints, replaced a transistor, and after performing the alignment procedures, got it to transmit! It'll only transmit reliably on 80m, but that was enough to allow me to make my first contacts with it -40 years after I bought it. Success! In the early 2000's, a friend told me about Elecraft, and I built a K2 transceiver in 2004. That was a fun project, and it's a great little rig. A few years after that, I read about the Appalachian Trail rigs by

Steve Weber. In 2010 or so, I built the ATS3-B in an Altoids tin and have been amazed at what that little rig, a piece of wire and a 9v battery pack can do. An interesting QSO I remember with this rig was with Dennis, K1YPP who was using the same rig while actually hiking the Appalachian Trail. He noted it in his book, Three Hundred Zeros: Lessons of the Heart on the Appalachian Trail. By that time, Dennis had carried that little rig on his back for more than 2,000 miles! I've upgraded my "main" HF station several times, with a TS-590SG in the shack today, along with the QRP rigs I've built or bought along the way. The K2 probably gets the most air time, followed by the '590 and ATS3-B. I like to set up outside on the back porch or at a park during the warmer months for some weekend QRP CW contacts. I tend to use the HW-9 in the colder months, for things like SKN and NAQCC activities. I think what keeps me interested in QRP CW is that making contacts is really not that much more challenging than QRO CW, and that experimenting and building equipment and antennas is simpler and less costly at QRP scale. Then there's the portability of QRP operating. I can setup my fishing pole vertical in just a few minutes, connect a small battery and start operating. Tear down is also quick. If there is a downside to low power operation, it's when an operator is having a hard time copying my signal. I'll usually thank him and tell him we can try again later, rather than making him continue to struggle. This can happen at QRO levels also, but it can seem rude knowing I'm withholding power while someone is struggling to hear me. It doesn't happen often, but I try to keep the other operator's QSO experience in mind. If you're reading this, I suspect you're already familiar with QRP CW operating, but if you're not, give it a try. It may become your favorite mode, too.

72/73, Kevin McKenna, KE3V

Ham Radio Calendar

November 1 - Silent Key Memorial Contest. See <http://www.skmc.hu/en/rules.html>

November 4 - ARRL CW Sweepstakes Contest. See <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

November 5 – Election Day

November 5 – Corry Amateur Radio Club Meeting

November 7 – RAE Club Meeting

November 9 - WAE DX Contest. See darc.de/der-club/referate/referat-conteste

November 9 - 10-10 International Fall Digital Contest. See www.ten-ten.org

November 11 – Veteran's Day

November 12 – Wattsburg Wireless Club Meeting

November 14 – Union City Club Meeting

November 16 – VE Session

November 16 - ARRL EME Contest. See www.arrl.org/eme-contest

November 16 - ARRL Sweepstakes Contest. See www.arrl.org/sweepstakes

November 18- Conneaut Club Meeting

November 23 - CQ Worldwide CW DX Contest. See www.cqww.com

November 28 – Thanksgiving